

Serial No.: 09/965,753  
Attorney Docket No.: F-299

Patent

**REMARKS****1. Status of Claims**

Claims 1-27 were pending in the Application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 19 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-27 will remain pending in the application.

**2. Objections to the Claims**

In section 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 23 for certain informalities. Applicant has amended the claim for cosmetic reasons and to address the informality as suggested. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

**3. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)**

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 10, 14-15, 19 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 4,556,944 to Daniels, et al. ("Daniels '944") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,820 to Dietz ("Dietz '820").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10 and 19 and the rejection is moot.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-3, 11-12 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 4,556,944 to Daniels, et al. ("Daniels '944") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,820 to Dietz ("Dietz '820") and in further view of United States Patent No. 4,744,554 to Kulpa, et al. ("Kulpa '554").

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10 and 19 and the rejection is moot.

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 4, 7-8, 13, 16-17, 22 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 4,556,944 to Daniels, et al. ("Daniels '944") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,820 to Dietz ("Dietz '820") and United States Patent No. 4,744,554 to Kulpa, et al. ("Kulpa '554") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,310,128 to Doeberl, et al. ("Doeberl '128").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10 and 19 and the rejection is moot.

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 9, 18 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 4,556,944 to Daniels, et al. ("Daniels '944") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,820 to Dietz ("Dietz '820"), United States Patent No. 4,744,554 to Kulpa, et al. ("Kulpa '554") and U.S. Patent No. 5,310,128 to Doeberl, et al. ("Doeberl '128") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,161,007 to McCutcheon, et al. ("McCutcheon '007").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10 and 19 and the rejection is moot.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and submits that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-27 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

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**4. Conclusion Of Remarks**

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

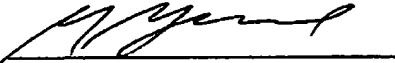
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

**5. Authorization**

No fee is believed due with this Amendment other than that associated with the enclosed petition for extension of time to respond. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-299.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-299.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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